

CLAIMS

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A cooking apparatus, comprising:

- 5 a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking, a supply hose for supplying propane to the burner element, the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;
- b) a pot that includes a generally flat bottom portion and a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall, the pot having a generally cylindrically shaped interior;
- 10 c) the frame including a plurality of at least three struts, each strut including a first strut portion, a second strut portion and a third strut portion, the first strut portion of each strut being generally parallel with the bottom portion of the pot, the second strut portion of each strut extending in a generally vertical direction from the second strut portion, the third strut portion extending
- 15 downwardly from the second strut portion;
- d) at least a portion of each of the first strut portions extending underneath the bottom portion of the pot when the pot is placed on the frame; and
- e) the second strut portions restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use of the cooking apparatus such as when a food to be cooked
- 20 is inserted into or removed from the pot.

2. The cooking apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a ring attached to the second strut portion for each of the plurality of generally "ell" shaped struts.

3. The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

4. The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein there are at least three circumferentially spaced apart radially extending struts that are spaced about 120 degrees apart.

5. The cooking apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base portion that registers against the bottom of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

6. The cooking apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with two hands.

7. The cooking apparatus of claim 6 wherein the horizontally extended section is between about seven and fourteen inches (7"-14") in length.

8. The cooking apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a multi-section smoker supported by the frame, the multi-section smoker including a lower smoker section having a recess that fits the strut portions of the frame.

9. A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking, a supply hose for supplying propane to the burner element, the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;

b) a pot that includes a generally flat bottom portion and a generally

cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall, the pot having a generally cylindrically shaped interior;

5 c) a food holder that fits inside the pot, the liner having a lower end portion for holding foot and an upper end portion that enables a user to grip and lift or lower the food holder;

10 d) the frame including a plurality of struts, each strut comprising a first strut portion, a second strut portion and a third strut portion, the first strut portion of each strut being generally parallel with the bottom portion of the pot, the second strut portion of each strut generally tracking upwardly along the sidewall of the pot, the third strut portion including an inclined portion and comprising at least in part the base;

e) at least a portion of at least one of the first strut portions extending underneath the bottom portion of the pot when the pot is placed on the frame; and

15 f) the second strut portions restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use of the cooking apparatus such as when the food holder is inserted into or removed from the pot.

10. The cooking apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a ring attached to the third strut portion to define at least in part the base.

11. The cooking apparatus of claim 9 wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

20 12. The cooking apparatus of claim 9 wherein there are at least three circumferentially spaced apart struts.

13. The cooking apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that

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a user can grip the horizontally extended section with two hands.

14. The cooking apparatus, of claim 1<sup>3</sup>~~4~~ wherein the horizontally extending portion removably connects to the lower end portion of the food holder.

15. The cooking apparatus of claim 9 wherein the horizontally extended  
5 section is between about seven and fourteen inches (7"-14") in length.

~~16~~. A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking, a supply hose for supplying propane to the burner element, the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;  
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b) a pot that includes a generally flat bottom portion and a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall, the pot having a generally cylindrically shaped interior;

c) the frame further including a plurality of struts, each strut comprising a first strut portion and a second strut portion, the first strut portion of each strut being generally parallel with the bottom portion of the pot;  
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d) at least a portion of the first strut portions extending underneath the bottom portion of the pot when the pot is placed on the frame;

e) each strut further including a second strut portion with an upper end spaced vertically above the bottom of the pot and closely positioned generally parallel to the sidewall of the pot during use; and  
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f) the upper end of each second strut portion restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use of the cooking apparatus such as when a liner is

inserted or removed from the pot.

17. The cooking apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a ring attached to the second strut portion for each of the plurality of struts.

18. The cooking apparatus of claim 17 wherein the frame includes a second  
5 ring that is connected to each of the struts.

19. The cooking apparatus of claim 16 wherein there are at least three circumferentially spaced apart struts.

20. The cooking apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base that registers against the bottom  
10 of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

21. The cooking apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with two hands.

22. The cooking apparatus of claim ~~22~~<sup>21</sup> wherein the horizontally extended  
15 section is between about seven and fourteen inches (7"-14") in length.

23. The cooking apparatus of claim 17 further comprising a multi-section smoker supported by the frame, the multi-section smoker including a lower smoker section having a recess that fits the strut portions of the frame.

24. A cooking apparatus, comprising:  
20 a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking, a supply hose for supplying propane to the burner element, the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;

b) a pot that includes a generally flat bottom portion and a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall, the pot having a generally cylindrically shaped interior;

5 c) the frame including a plurality of generally "ell" shaped struts that include first and second strut portions that are closely positioned to the sidewall and bottom of the pot, the first strut portion extending along a generally vertical path and the second strut portion extending horizontally to provide a horizontal surface that can cradle the bottom of the pot; and

10 d) wherein the ell shaped struts forming a lateral restraint to the pot for preventing tilting or lateral movement of the pot such as when the liner is inserted into or removed from the pot.

25. The cooking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

15 26. The cooking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the burner frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the upper and lower rings, each strut including an inclined section.

27. The cooking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the burner frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the upper and lower rings, each strut including said first and second strut portions.

20 28. The cooking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the burner frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the said rings, each strut including said horizontal strut portion and said vertical strut portion.

29. The cooking apparatus of claim 27 wherein there are at least three

circumferentially spaced apart struts.

30. The cooking apparatus of claim 24 further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base the registers against the bottom of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

5 31. The cooking apparatus of claim 30 further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with two hands.

32. The cooking apparatus of claim 24 wherein the horizontally extended section is between about seven and fourteen inches (7"-14") in length.

10 33. The cooking apparatus of claim 33<sup>2</sup> further comprising a multi-section smoker supported by the frame, the multi-section smoker including a lower smoker section having a recess that fits the strut portions of the frame.

15 34. A cooking apparatus, comprising:  
a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking, the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;

b) a pot that includes a generally flat bottom portion and a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall, the pot having a generally cylindrically shaped interior; and

20 c) the frame including a plurality of struts that each include a plurality of strut portions, one of the strut portions extending downwardly along a generally vertical path, another of the strut portions extending horizontally to provide a horizontal surface that can cradle the bottom of the pot, another strut portion providing a downwardly

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extending leg;

d) wherein the struts provide a lateral restraint structure for preventing tilting or lateral movement of the pot such as when the liner is inserted into or removed from the pot.

5           35.     The cooking apparatus of claim 34 wherein the base includes a circular ring portion of the frame.

36.     The cooking apparatus of claim 34 wherein the burner frame includes multiple rings and wherein the plurality of struts connects the upper and lower rings, and wherein each strut includes an inclined section.

10           37.     The cooking apparatus of claim 34 wherein the burner frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the upper and lower rings, each strut including said first and second strut portions.

15           38.     The cooking apparatus of claim 35 wherein the burner frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the said rings, each strut including said horizontal strut portion and said vertical strut portion.

39.     The cooking apparatus of claim 34 wherein there are at least three circumferentially spaced apart struts.

20           40.     The cooking apparatus of claim 34 further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base the registers against the bottom of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

41.     The cooking apparatus of claim 40 further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with two hands.



42. The cooking apparatus of claim 34 wherein the horizontally extended section is between about seven and fourteen inches (7"-14") in length.

43. The cooking apparatus of claim 35 further comprising a multi-section smoker supported by the frame, the multi-section smoker including a lower smoker section having a recess that fits the strut portions of the frame.

44. A cooking apparatus, comprising:

- a) a frame having a base for engaging an underlying support surface;
- b) a burner element mounted on the frame for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking;
- c) a supply hose for supplying pressurized fuel gas to the burner;
- d) the frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;
- e) the frame including a plurality of circumferentially spaced, radially extending struts, each strut having vertical and horizontal strut portions that are generally parallel to either the sidewall or the bottom of the pot during use, the horizontal strut portions positioned to cradle the bottom of the pot during use, the vertical strut portions positioned to prevent substantial lateral movement of the pot during use; and
- f) wherein the struts include integral members, each member having multiple bends including at least one bend that is between the vertical and the horizontal strut portions.

45. The cooking apparatus of claim 44 wherein the frame includes two rings, an upper ring and a lower ring and the struts are each structurally connected to the rings.

46. The apparatus of claim 44 wherein each strut includes an inclined section.

47. The apparatus of claim 44 wherein each strut has at least three bends.

48. The cooking apparatus of claim 44 wherein the frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the rings, each strut including a horizontal section, a vertical upper section and an inclined lower section.

49. The cooking apparatus of claim 44 wherein there are at least three radially extending horizontal sections spaced circumferentially apart for cradling the pot.

50. A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a) a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking, and a supply hose for supplying fuel to the cooking element;

b) a pot that includes a generally flat bottom portion and a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall, the pot having a generally cylindrically shaped interior;

c) the burner frame including a plurality of struts that include first, second strut portions that closely conform respectively to the bottom portion and side wall of the pot, the second strut portion extending horizontally to provide a horizontal surface that can cradle the bottom of the pot and the first strut portion extending downwardly along a generally vertical path;

d) wherein the struts form a lateral restraint to the pot for limiting lateral movement of the pot such as when the liner is inserted into or removed from the pot; and

e) each strut including a leg portion that extends well below the burner element.

51. The cooking apparatus of claim 50 further comprising a multi-section smoker supported by the frame, the multi-section smoker including a lower smoker

section having a recess that fits the strut portions of the frame.

52. The cooking apparatus of claim 50 wherein the frame includes a ground engaging member connected to the leg portions of the struts.

53. The cooking apparatus of claim 50 wherein the frame includes an upper  
5 ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the upper and lower rings, each strut leg portion being an inclined section of the frame.

54. The cooking apparatus of claim 50 wherein the frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the upper and lower rings, each strut having at least three bends.

10 55. The cooking apparatus of claim 50 wherein the frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting said rings, each strut including a horizontal strut portion and a vertical strut portion.

56. The cooking apparatus of claim 50 wherein there are at least three circumferentially spaced apart struts.

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~~57.~~ A cooking apparatus, comprising:

- a) a frame having a base for engaging an underlying support surface;
- b) a pot supported by the frame during use and having a side wall, a bottom and an open top;
- c) a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking;
- 20 d) a supply hose for supplying pressurized fuel gas to the burner;
- e) the burner frame including a plurality of struts, each strut including generally vertical and generally horizontal strut portions, each vertical strut portion extending downwardly along a generally vertical path that is generally parallel to the pot

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side wall and each horizontal strut portion extending horizontally to engage the pot bottom; and

f) wherein each strut includes an inclined section.

58. The cooking apparatus of claim 57 wherein the burner frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and the plurality of struts connect the rings.

59. The apparatus of claim 57 wherein each strut includes an inclined section.

60. The cooking apparatus of claim 57 wherein the frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the rings, each strut including a generally horizontal section and two generally vertical sections.

61. The cooking apparatus of claim 57 wherein the frame includes an upper ring, a lower ring and a plurality of struts connecting the rings, each strut including a horizontal section, an inclined section and a plurality of vertical sections.

62. The cooking apparatus of claim 57 wherein strut bends connect the horizontal section at its ends respectively to the pair of vertical sections.

63. The cooking apparatus of claim 57 further comprising a multi-section smoker supported by the frame, the multi-section smoker including a lower smoker section having a recess that fits the strut portions of the frame.